

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, and 22-33 are pending in the application with claims 1, 5, 7, and 27 being independent claims. Claims 22-33 are new.

RESPONSE TO ELECTION/RESTRICTION

In the Office Action mailed December 20, 2005, the Examiner requested that the Applicants elect among the following groups of claims:

- Group I: Claims 1-8;
- Group II: Claim 9-14;
- Group III: Claims 15-19; and
- Group IV: Claims 20 and 21.

Applicants hereby elect, without traverse, Group I, which includes original claims 1-8 and newly added claims 22-34 for prosecution on the merits.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 5 and 7 have been amended to place the former dependent claims into independent form. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from independent claim 5. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from independent claim 7.

Claims 9-21 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, and new claims 22 – 33 have been added. Claims 22-26 are new claims that depend from claim 1. Claim 27 is an independent claim and claims 28-33 depend from independent claim 27. The new claims 22-33 do not include new matter and are within the subject matter of the elected Group I.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Restriction Requirement and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that further personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16, 1.17, and 1.21 that may be required by this paper, and to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-1283.

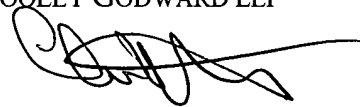
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